



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to the PM's OF FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1945.

Holdings of frozen fish and shellfish, which last month broke all previous records for volume, established a new high level December 1 when the total quantity of seafoods in freezers and cold storage establishments reached 148,000,000 pounds, according to figures released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior.

The previous high point, reached November 1, 1945, was 138 million pounds. The increase of 10 million pounds during November not only establishes a new record for the quantity of frozen fish in storage, but reverses the normal downward trend of such holdings during the closing months of the year.

Present holdings are 20 million pounds higher than on the first of December, 1944, and are 37 million pounds in excess of the average December 1 holdings during the period from 1940 through 1944.

Scattered reports received by the Fish and Wildlife Service since December 1 indicate only moderate recessions during December from the 148 million-pound peak, and show that in some areas still larger inventories are being built up.

The quantity of frozen shrimp in storage is continuing its spectacular rise, according to the Service report. Holdings as of December 1 were approximately 16 million pounds, compared with 13 million pounds on November 1 and 10.5 million pounds a year ago. Average holdings of shrimp at this time of year are only about 8 million pounds.

Largely because of the rise of shrimp holdings, inventories of all shellfish combined are now approximately double their average size.

Salt-water fish rose from 112.5 million pounds on November 1 to 114.1 million the first of December, although average holdings of marine species are only 87.6 million pounds. Fresh-water species, on the other hand, are at a fairly normal level, with holdings of 12.3 million pounds reported.

Present holdings of salmon are reported as 18.7 million pounds, or about seven and a half million above the average; mackerel, with 10.6 million pounds reported, is four million above average; mixed fillets of fish are five million above the average with 20.4 million pounds now in storage.

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